**10d Page 124 AUDIOSCRIPT**

Upper Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

2.27

**M = Marie; E = Esther**

**M:** I know of henna painting as a custom from Indian weddings … but you came across it in Turkey, didn’t you?

**E:** Yes, in eastern Turkey when I was travelling there. It takes place a few nights before the wedding.

**M:** Was it a bit like a hen night?

**E:** Well in the sense that it marks the last evening that a bride spends with female family and friends, I suppose it is a bit like that. What happens is typically, the women from both families get together, with the bride, to celebrate with music, song and dance. But it’s not just a party. It’s an occasion for sadness too, because it symbolises the end of life as a single person and the start of another stage.

**M:** So what happens exactly?

**E:** Well, the ceremony begins with preparation of the henna. It’s traditional for this to be done by the daughter of a couple who’ve had a successful marriage themselves. Then, after the bride’s head has been covered in a red veil, her hands and feet are decorated with henna. After that, a gold coin is put into the remaining henna. While this is happening, the guests sing … umm … separation songs – these are rather sad, as you can imagine. The party continues well into the night. Then, on the morning of the wedding, a child presents the hennaed coin to the groom as a symbol of future prosperity and good fortune.